

New Mexico – Wednesday, Congressman Harry Teague issued the following statement in reaction to the Obama Administration's announcement that they will allow expanded oil and gas development and exploration on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf.

"The President's announcement is good news for American workers, good news for the American economy, and good news for our national security. The Obama Administration's decision to responsibly develop more of our domestic energy resources is a positive step forward and an acknowledgement that expanding domestic production is critical to ending our dependence on foreign oil from places like Iran and Venezuela. Since being elected to Congress I've spent a good deal of time talking to the Administration about the importance of producing more energy in America, and this decision shows President Obama and his Administration are willing to listen to voices from our industry.

Moving forward, I hope to hear more from the Administration about how they will work to support small and independent producers in New Mexico and across the country. After all, it's the smaller independents that operate the majority of wells nationwide and provide good paying American jobs while helping to reduce our dependence on foreign oil."

Attached to this statement is a letter Congressman Teague sent to Secretary Salazar last year in support of drilling in the outer continental shelf.

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